

**Women's Policy Coalition Meeting**  
**Community Service Building Corporation, Rm 109**  
**100 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Stella Harrison (OWAA), Rebecca Cotto (YWCA), Sarah Best (Planned Parenthood of Delaware), Marian Palley (Delaware Commission for Women), Melanie Ross Levin (OWAA), Carling Ryan (OWAA), Katherine Caudle (AFSCME Council 81), Suzanne Moore (Delaware ERANow), Susan Sherk (Fund for Women), Susan Mckenna (AAUW), Kyle Gay (Junior League), Cimone Philpotts (National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Delaware Chapter)

**The meeting began at 11:35 a.m.**

**Welcome and introductory remarks**

Marian Palley opened the meeting mentioning the 2019 Centennial women's suffrage event, and told attendees about the Delaware Heritage Commission subcommittee they could join to participate in the planning process. Melanie Ross Levin said she will send out Dick Carter's information.

Next, Marian Palley moved on to legislative updates.

**Legislative Updates**

Sarah Best discussed HB 52 and HB 53, mentioning the committee hearing on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kat Caudle spoke about SS 1 to SB 8. She stated that she was confident that it would be released from the House Labor Committee. She stated that teachers are not included in this bill, and Delaware is the only state in the country to not allow state employees to collectively bargain; state employees tend to be women.

Carling Ryan spoke about HB 102 which would make it so a person can apply for a pardon or expungement of any crime, except violent felonies, if the crime was directly related to the person being trafficked.

Melanie Ross Levin discussed the tipped minimum wage. She noted that the tipped minimum wage has not been increased in 36 years, and that women make up a majority of service workers.

**Pay Negotiations Workshops**

Next, Melanie Ross Levin discussed the four salary negotiation workshops being hosted by OWAA; there will be one in DSU, UD, Wilmington, and Lewes. This is a pilot program to see if there is interest and ideally they would work to have more across the state. She suggested that people can help by having their organizations advertise the events, being trained to be trainers, and recruiting people to attend. She added that there is a max capacity of 60 at each workshop.

**Alliance For Justice Workshops: options**

Next, Melanie Ross Levin discussed that she had met with Alliance for Justice to possibly do a training about advocacy laws.

**May meeting workshop**

Marian Palley mentioned that Drew Wilson was going to come and do a workshop for the Coalition in May. Kyle Gay suggested that we reach out to Deborah Moreau at the Public Integrity Commission.

**Speed Meeting Event: Evaluation, Suggestions for next year**

Marian Palley then suggested that we evaluate the speed meeting event. She thought the day was successful, but that we need to broaden the participation from the legislators. Becca Cotto mentioned that legislators need to be more involved in women's issues, and Kyle Gay mentioned that the women's section of the Delaware Bar had cancelled their lobby day because there was not a lot of interest from legislators. Marian Palley suggested that a way to get more participation is to offer some lunch, and identifying representatives in their district to speak as a constituent. Melanie Ross Levin suggested moving the event to January and giving legislators 5 minutes to address the group. Kat Caudle mentioned that it defeats the purpose of these types of events when legislators to organizations, as opposed to organizations speaking to legislators. Marian Palley agreed and added that if we gave legislators 5 minutes each, that would take up the whole event. The legislators who attended the speed meeting event were Sen. Delcollo, Rep. Dorsey Walker and Sen Cloutier.

**New Business**

Becca Cotto then mentioned the YWCA's movie series for sexual assault awareness month. Stephanie Staats spoke about SARC, a 24/7 hotline with offices in Newark and Georgetown.

Melanie Ross Levin told everyone to email their events to Stella. She also mentioned an equal pay day press conference, and urged all women's organizations to use the same statistical figures for equal pay. She also mentioned that OWAA can promote groups' events on social media.

The next meetings are scheduled for 5/20 and 6/17.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Best